

The Semaphore

A Publication of the TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS



NORTH BEACH CAFFE SOCIETY

see page 18

ISSUE 176
SUMMER 2006



THE SEMAPHORE # 176 SUMMER 2006

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Vedica Puri

By the time you read this article, World Cup mania will be over and true soccer fans will be planning their trips to South Africa for the next World Cup. If you were anywhere near Washington Square Park on the afternoon of the stellar Italian victories you witnessed the mania first hand. North Beach erupted in spontaneous revelry with fans of every ethnic descent spilling into Columbus Ave. and closing it down in celebration, a community example of unity and cohesion. It's what the World Cup is all about and a refreshing break from national political news.

In our own effort to promote cohesion, the THD Board gathered one intense June evening for several hours to chart our course for the next year. We tackled issues facing our community, discussed the priorities of our membership, and refocused on the goals for our organization. Led by a professional facilitator, we talked openly about the mission of THD, how to focus the organization on this mission, what we need to do better and how to do it, and most importantly, how we can involve the membership.

The THD, under the bylaws, is supposed to:

- (1) to beautify and improve Telegraph Hill;
- (2) to encourage a friendly association among the Hill residents;
- (3) to protect the basic character, building scale, and

open space of the Hill against increased density and traffic;


- (4) to perpetuate the historical traditions of the Hill's place in San Francisco history;
- (5) to insure Telegraph Hill's constructive participation in the development of our city;
- (6) and to represent the property owners and residents in community problems which may arise.

Sounds great, right? Now -- how do you do it? The answer we came up was that we should rev up our standing committees and social events. Any THD member can join any of the THD's committees, but soliciting involvement is easier said than done. For years, the Waterfront Committee was comprised of just Nan Roth. While anyone who knows Nan understands she is a formidable force in and of herself, the idea is not to have a one-woman army defending the entire Northeastern Waterfront. The idea is to have a committee chairperson and committee members that meet once a month to discuss issues, meet with other neighborhood groups, work with our neighbors, developers and commissioners/supervisors, appear at hearings and write letters setting out THD's position.

To grow our committees means we need volunteers willing to give a few hours a month to attend a

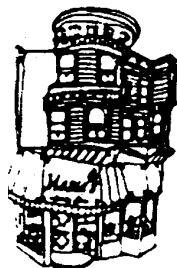
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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

committee meeting and brainstorm with its members. Parking, trees, traffic, the waterfront, website, membership, social events are all in need of help. If you have the time, we will find a committee that can use you.

As for the THD social calendar, we began the year with a wonderful reception at the Canessa Gallery that featured a display of the earthquake photos of JB Monaco assembled by THDers Audrey Tomaselli and Jan Holloway. (See page 13) Our goal is to provide at least one lively and imaginative social event each month. Check the back cover of this issue of the Semaphore for a partial list.

In sharing information about events now we have tools unavailable to the founders of our organization many years ago: our website (www.thd.org) and e-mail. On the website, we have updated a lot of content. We are also adding a three-month calendar

feature available by the end of July, 2006 that will list our upcoming social events and various commission meetings. In an effort to spare our membership daily e-mails, we are now trying to send fewer e-mails packed with more content. We will test a kind of very short e-newsletter in the coming months and see how folks like it.

We will also be sending out e-invites to each of our social events thanks to the talent of one of our members, Caren Zisson.

At the end of the Board's goal-setting session, I was supposed to give closing remarks. With all the brainstorming that had just happened, I realized this was more a beginning than an ending. So, I said to the Board what I now say to you—may we all always be lucky enough to live in such a great neighborhood. Now let's work on the cohesion.

Please call me or other Board members with ideas about how to do it.



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FROM THE DESK OF SUPERVISOR PESKIN



The annual labyrinth budget process at City Hall has finally come to a close—another balanced budget passed on time—so it's an opportune time to report back on a few neighborhood initiatives, large and small, that next year's budget will be funding.

The public housing units at North Beach Place, beautifully rebuilt in 2004, are now fully leased to 341 low-income families and seniors. (See page 22) Many of the folks at NBP are returning residents of the old, barracks-style structures that stood there prior to the reconstruction. Over the past months as the residences have filled up, neighbors have raised concerns about an increase in incidents of graffiti, theft, and violence around the reopened complex. While we should all be concerned about spikes in crime, we should approach issues like this one with an eye toward understanding the problem and proposing solutions to it. No relocation is without its challenges: new families and returning families now with older kids are dealing with a lack of youth services in the area. I'm happy to announce that we have secured commitments of \$100,000 in funding to increase access to a variety youth programs this summer in North Beach. In the spirit of compassion and cooperation that defines San Francisco at its best, the City and private industry have come together to fund

a solution. The Department of Children, Youth and Families will provide half the funding, and the John Stewart Company, the private housing provider managing the complex, will offer the other half of the funds for these new programs.

The Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center, one of the city's oldest and most respected community organizations, serving North Beach since 1890, will use these new funds to increase staff and recruit volunteers that will offer a host of new programs for the more than 380 kids under 18 that now live at North Beach Place. Among those will be full-day preschool programs for kids age 2-5; recreational programs at Tel-Hi's gym and basketball court including dance, swimming and yoga; and job skills, economic literacy, and leadership training through a teen-focused program.

North Beach Citizens will receive a grant of \$25,000 to provide much needed street cleaning services while employing some of our less fortunate members of the community. This successful program was cut during the tough budget years after the dot com bust. I am delighted that I was finally able to get some resources to rekindle it.

In addition to those community-based outreach efforts, my office has also secured commitments to

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WHEN WORLDS CONNECT

By Marc Bruno

On a recent final Monday of the month, three homeless men and two well-dressed women wait at 6:30 PM in the secluded garden behind Bocce Restaurant in the heart of North Beach. A fourth man asks for a light.

"Can't do that here, baby," says one of the women. They are soon joined by a gray haired lady dragging a huge plastic garbage bag filled, it seems, with her life's possessions. A doctor, his wife and their two children enter.

What has brought this unusual cross-section of North Beach together? "Bringing Two Worlds Together," now almost six years old, has on 65 evening, served meals to the homeless and those of you—many THDers—who generously support us with their presence, conversations and upbeat attitude at these community gatherings. Rather than food, the emphasis is on friendship and long-term results growing out of a sense of togetherness and mutual commitment.

I began sponsoring these monthly dinners for the homeless with the help of the St. Vincent de Paul Society as a way to pay homage to friend lost to the streets almost 10 years ago. She was a college grad, smart and popular, and to this day I cannot untangle the mystery of how she arrived somewhere so far from where she began.

Above all, the dinners are reminder to all of us of what we can so easily lose—family, friends, and the security of self-worth. For those who have, it is a way to give back, for those who have little, it is a reminder that the most essential gift, camaraderie, still thrives in San Francisco.

I am often asked, "How can I help Bringing Two Worlds Together?" My answer is always the same. "I don't know, but come to the dinner and we'll find out together."

For more information about the monthly dinners for the homeless, or other local activities by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, please contact Marc Bruno at SVdePaul2006@yahoo.com ✕

From the Desk of Supervisor PESKIN

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work to reduce the incidents of late night violence along the Broadway corridor. I have worked with the Police and the Sheriff's office to provide increased patrol and law enforcement services at the critical late night hours particularly on weekends. To complement that work of the Sheriff's office, we have secured funding for a security camera around Coit Tower which has also seen an increase in criminal activity stemming from night clubs and bars on Broadway.

In more routine budget news, the Municipal Transportation Agency has authorized funding for a traffic light at the corner of Filbert and Mason Streets, where we had a tragic pedestrian fatality earlier this year. I am also pleased to let you know that next year's budget includes a record high \$31 million appropriation for resurfacing our worn-out streets (most years only \$12-\$15 million is devoted

to paving our streets).

Walking around the neighborhood, or cruising around the City, some of you may have noticed new signs identifying San Francisco's designated Historic Districts. Right in our historic corner of town we enjoy 3 of the city's 11 historic districts: Jackson Square, the Northeast Waterfront, and Telegraph Hill Historic Districts are now recognized by street signs in their areas. Around the City from Civic Center, to Alamo Square, from Liberty Hill to the South End District, visitors and residents alike can tell they are in a recognized historic community.

So that's a little bit of the news from City Hall. As usual feel free to call (554-7450) or write (City Hall, room 256) or email (aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org). See you at the coffee shop or around the 'hood. ✕

PLANNING & ZONING AND GELATERIA NAIJA TEAM UP

By Stan Teng

“We wanted to bring a little more Italy to Little Italy, and it’s worked. We’ve had a crowd in here everyday since we’ve opened,” says Trevor Morris, general manager of Gelateria Naia, which opened in July at 520 Columbus. “Some of the people who have stopped by include our new neighbors who have anxiously been waiting our opening. Lorenzo from The North Beach Restaurant, Tony from Caffè Roma, and Frank from the Palermo Deli were just a few of the people who came by try our gelato and wish us well”

In mid 2005 the Planning & Zoning Committee received a proposal for a new ice cream (gelato) store at a former cellular phone retail outlet. This space had been vacant for some time, perhaps due to its small size of 876 square feet and irregular shape conforming to the angle of Columbus Ave. on one side of the space.

Chris Tan of Gelateria Naia and his Architect, Dwight Ashdown of Ashdown Downey contacted THD P&Z and presented their proposed design. To their credit, Tan and Downey suggested a sensitive design that took advantage of the site’s unique frontage on both Columbus Ave. and Stockton Street. Instead of turning their back on one street or the other they were able to retain the existing storefront glazing and provide customer seating along both sides, thus providing a vibrant interior that is inviting from the street and sidewalk. Storage and food preparation areas were carefully concealed from view with partial height partitions that preserve the open feeling of the small space.

The *Semaphore* asked Gelateria Tan of Naia, to comment on the review process with THD, here is the response:

“Gelateria Naia had dreamed for three years to

open in the closely knit North Beach district, which has a strong reputation with real estate brokers, landlords and city planners. Before seriously pursuing a landlord, Naia felt it prudent to contact the Telegraph Hill Dwellers first. We were delighted to find a group that encouraged and welcomed our small business to the neighborhood.

“The THD were instrumental to Naia coming to North Beach. They let us know about potential vacancies in the area, and gave us key insight to how the community would perceive the retail design of the business.” With the help of the THD Zoning & Planning committee, Naia redesigned some architectural elements to welcome both locals and tourists alike.

Naia was also encouraged by the THD’s policy to keep chain stores out of North Beach, and to closely coordinate its retail scene. As Tan says, “By keeping the chains out, North Beach and the THD have fostered a wonderful environment for small businesses like ourselves. We feel comfortable and protected here.”

Asked for suggestions for new businesses thinking about joining North Beach, Naia has a couple tips. “Involve the THD early in your search, and listen carefully to this important resource,” suggests Tan. “After all, every business should respect the community they wish to work within; the THD makes this easy by providing a tangible contact, rather than relying on disparate groups and individuals through public meetings.”

THD Planning and Zoning Committee sees Gelateria Naia as a successful example of how the neighborhood can work with business, allowing for healthy growth of the neighborhood while respecting the characteristics that make the neighborhood desirable to residents, tourists and successful commercial enterprises.





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PLANNING & ZONING REPORT



Prepared by Nancy Shanahan and Mary Lipian, Co-Chairs, Planning & Zoning Committee

TELEGRAPH HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

(This historic district on the east side of Telegraph Hill was established in 1986 to preserve the largest group of pre-1870 structures in the City.)

Proposed Amendment to Historic District Ordinance. Legislation initiated by Supervisor Alioto-Pier will add several historic properties to the Telegraph Hill Historic District that were left out of the originally proposed district, most significantly, lots containing historic cliffs. Further protections will be added for the cliffs and open space features.

Mills Act Historic Preservation Tax Incentives. As a result of newly enacted city legislation, the owners of “contributory” or “contributory altered” buildings within the Telegraph Hill Historic District will soon be eligible for property tax relief as a financial incentive to restoring and preserving their historic buildings. This new ordinance requires the Planning Department to develop eligibility criteria and procedures for this program during the next six months. Watch THD’s web page for updates on how to qualify and apply for this new incentive.

230 Filbert St. The Landmarks Board recommended approval (Certificate of Appropriateness) for a project to make a modest expansion to this 1858 cottage (William F. Ross Cottage) located on the Filbert Steps. The project will add a room below the existing cottage by excavating and expanding at the rear below an existing balcony. To protect the historic fabric of this cottage, a condition of the Landmarks Board’s approval was that the cottage not be lifted even during construction, and the addition not be visible from the public right of way. According to the plans, all historic features of the cottage will be preserved and protected.

19 Alta St. A proposal to add solar panels to the roof of this noncontributory structure in the Telegraph Hill Historic District raised concern as to their visibility from the public right-of-way. THD is currently working with the Owner to mitigate the visibility of the solar panels.

Projects at **17 Alta St., 22 Alta St., 118 Alta St.**
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and **212 Union St.** are still pending. For descriptions of each, please refer to the 2006 Spring Semaphore (Issue 175).

NORTH BEACH RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

567 Vallejo St. (currently a large parking lot). In 2003, this project to construct a 5-unit condominium building over a parking garage obtained a Variance and Conditional Use Authorization, which included special restrictions relating to the exterior design to ensure compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood. Now in the final stages of Building Permit approval, changes have been proposed to the exterior that differ from the plans approved in 2003. P & Z is working with the Planning Department and project architect to resolve these design elements.

520 Chestnut St. A condominium project next to the Malt House project, which was approved on condition that it preserve the historic warehouse building, is nearing completion. Two issues are under consideration P & Z: Only the façade of the structure remains and a rooftop penthouse has been constructed that appears to grossly exceed the dimensions shown on the approved plans. The Planning Department has informed the project sponsor that the penthouse must be reduced to the originally approved size before an occupancy permit will be given.

1345 Montgomery St. (formerly the Dalla Torre Restaurant). A nearby neighbor has filed a request for the Planning Commission to take Discretionary Review (DR) of this project to convert a former restaurant on the Filbert Steps to a single-family dwelling. The DR request was to be heard by the Commission on July 13th and the results of the hearing were not known by press time. As reported in the 2006 Spring Semaphore (Issue 175), the proposal requires extensive remodeling of the interior and several changes to the exterior, including the addition of two dormer windows, the creation of a garage door and curb cut on the Montgomery St. wall, the expansion of the existing stair penthouse, and the addition of a roof deck with a glass guardrail. The flat portion of the Montgomery St. roof will be raised approximately 3 feet to the height of the peak of the roof facing Montgomery.

334-40 Vallejo St. Two mature trees were cut down

PLANNING & ZONING

in connection with a garage expansion project, apparently without the required permit from the City's Department of Public Works.

NORTH BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

(In 1987, the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District Ordinance was adopted to maintain the character of and mix of businesses in North Beach.)

543 Columbus Ave. (former site of Ben and Jerry's).

La Boulange bakery and café is now open for business. The exterior design of the storefront, which is compatible with the historic character of the neighborhood commercial district, is a welcome addition to Columbus Avenue.

1353 Grant Ave. (former site of Lost & Found Saloon). Soon to be re-opened as Maggie McGarry's Irish Tavern, this storefront on Upper Grant is currently undergoing a remarkable transformation. At THD's suggestion, the new owners removed the old Lost & Found Saloon signage uncovering and restoring the original clerestory windows. The old Plexiglas windows have been replaced with new wooden windows at street level and an attractive paint job of the storefront has been completed, bringing this storefront into sync with the character of Upper Grant neighborhood.

601 Union St. (former site of Fior d'Italia). At the site of old Fior d'Italia at the corner of Union and Stockton on Washington Square, *DiMaggio's Italian Chophouse* has opened. Collaboration between the architects and designers on THD's Planning & Zoning Committee and the project sponsor's design team resulted in an attractive renovation of the exterior of this building that fits well with the character of North Beach and Washington Square.

520 Columbus Ave. *Gelateria Naia*, a new ice cream (gelato) store has opened in the storefront formerly occupied by a cellular phone retail outlet.

303 Columbus Ave. *Giordano Bros.*, the small self-service sandwich shop on Columbus Ave. near Broadway is in the process of applying for a Place of Entertainment permit from the Entertainment Commission to accommodate live music, primarily acoustic.

1350 Grant Ave. An ATM installed on the sidewalk at

this address without a building permit and in conflict with the Planning Code was removed following a letter from the Enforcement Division of the Planning Department.

700 Filbert (on Powell St. side). An illegal billboard installed on the Powell Street wall of this building was removed following action by the Enforcement Division of the Planning Department and involvement by the Planning Director's office. Note: New billboards are illegal in San Francisco,

St. Francis of Assisi Gym. A proposal has been made to make major changes to the front façade of the St. Francis of Assisi Gym located at the corner of Vallejo and Columbus Ave., adjoining the St. Francis of Assisi Church, which is both a City Landmark and a National Shrine.

BROADWAY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

(This Neighborhood Commercial District extends along both sides of Broadway from Columbus to Osgood Place).

373 Broadway. Daniel Patterson (formerly of Elizabeth Daniels Restaurant in Jackson Square) has recently opened *Coi*, a new upscale full service restaurant on Broadway, next to Centerfolds. Suggestions offered by THD's architects and designers were incorporated into the exterior design for the restaurant renovation, which has preserved the historic character of this building, enhancing the appearance of this part of Broadway.

381 Broadway/392 Montgomery (Centerfolds). A new awning and lighting system are being proposed for this business, which appears to be even more out of character with the historic building than the current awning. THD will review the proposal and offer comments.

222 Columbus (ATM Facility). A proposal to install an interior-double ATM at this prominent and visible corner located at the corner of Columbus Ave. and Kearny requires the Planning Commission to approve a Conditional Use Application that can be granted only if the Commission determines that a new ATM facility is necessary and desirable for the neighborhood or community. THD does not support this proposal because there are already numerous ATM facilities in the vicinity that more than adequately serve the needs of residents and visitors to North Beach.

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"IN THE RUBBLE OF THE PAST...THE FUTURE BEGINS"

by Rozell Overmire

Serendipity was at play on a day few months ago when, at Café Divine, Audrey Tomaselli was sharing with June Osterberg Audrey's latest published oral history, an interview with Richard Monaco whose grandfather, J.B. Monaco, had photographed some of the most memorable images of the Earthquake and Fire of 1906. As Audrey and June poured over the text, in walked Zach Stewart, owner of the Canessa Gallery at Montgomery and Washington, who was immediately taken by the JB Monaco photos included in Audrey's presentation. Zack offered a month of free exhibit space if the Telegraph Hill Dwellers would enlarge the photos and prepare them for display. With generous volunteer labor, and Zack's and Richard Monaco's support, The

Hill Dwellers launched into the project, adding our own neighborhood's earthquake history to the 100 year celebration of these 1906 events.

On the evening of June 24, the Hill Dwellers celebrated the exhibition at a reception held at the Canessa.

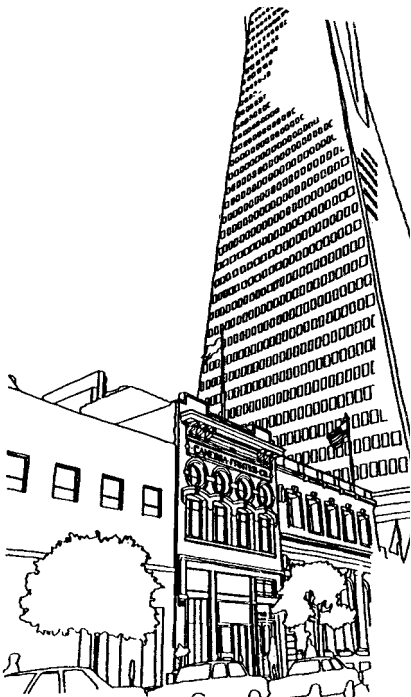
The gallery is a special place layered with history. In 1848 the location was likely the berth-



Richard Monaco with 1906 Quake Panorama

ing spot of the wooden sailing ship "Georgian" at a time when San Francisco Bay lapped on the edge of the present Montgomery Street. By 1856 a two story brick building was erected on the lot by the merchant Frank Bergin. In the 1880's and early 1890's a third story building is recorded there as housing the Furne Printing Company. By 1893 there was a remodel by the Italian-American architect Luigi Mastropasqua for the Canessa Printing Company. The Black Cat Café, an artists' retreat and bar before WW II and the first openly gay bar after the war, was on the ground floor till 1963. Canessa Printing Company occupied upstairs until 1965. Today the Canessa Gallery, over forty years in existence, graces the old building upstairs.

Richard Monaco's grandfather's photos seemed to fit into the spirit of the old building. They showed the earthquake and fire's effect with an empty Russian



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"RUBBLE OF THE PAST" Show

Hill/Telegraph Hill North Beach valley flattened out with burned buildings, broken water mains, and familiar landmarks hollow and empty. At the reception, the author and historian, James Dalessando provided a commentary that brought these texts to life. He showed his documentary, "The Damnedest Finest Ruins," a dramatic version of the 1906 earthquake that is not soon forgotten. Sales of the film and Dalessando's book, *1906, A Novel*, went to the "Starving Artist's Fund" that Canessa uses to sponsor exhibits of unknown artists.

At every stage the exhibit was an example of a successful community effort. Jan Holloway, a former gallery owner and long-time supporter of THD curated the exhibit, and Audrey Tomaselli did the leg work of producing the enlarged photos, writing and printing the labels, and providing directions for her helpers to make the reception in the gallery look lovely with flowers, tablecloths, food and entertainment. The reception had a large turnout of 100. The show was extended to the end of July.

Some comments from those in attendance capture the spirit and significance of the event:

"I have seen many exhibits of the 06 Earthquake, but this one offered more humanity. It was so well organized that it gave continuity to the happening and its aftermath."

"Thank heaven J.B. Monaco was there with his expertise. The photos are beautiful reminders of how fragile and at the same time strong our city is."

The effort that went into this show provided one more piece of evidence that the Telegraph Hill Dwellers has a place for every member to make a meaningful contribution to the neighborhood.

Al Baccari, our wonderful neighborhood historian and founder of the North Beach Museum, summed up the impact of the event: "We are all strangers until we share our history." Thanks to all who helped make the Monaco Exhibit a special one, and above all, thanks to J.B. Monaco for the heart-breaking effort of taking photographs of his beloved neighborhood after its destruction. Imagine losing all the prints you had taken over the years in one sweep of a fire and yet, instantly carrying on to record the present for the future!



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NORTH BEACH CITIZENS: ANOTHER CLIENT PROFILE

ARTHUR CHAGALL

By Brady McCartney

Arthur Chagall has lived many lives. He has lived the life of a Midwestern husband and proud father, a San Francisco punk rocker, an imprisoned man, a middle-aged psych ward patient, a homeless father separated from his son, and a well-balanced, recently housed, budding artist. While these lives may have distinct beginnings and endings, Arthur's focus on maintaining a strong rela-

tionship with his son, Joshua, has had no end.

In 1999, Arthur lived the life of a father separated from his son. At the time, Arthur was working at a yoga studio, living as healthy as he ever had. But the fact that he could only visit with his son, made this change in his life difficult to appreciate. He knew the separation was taking a toll on the whole family, but, because of his visit-only status, he was unsure how much of a toll it was taking.

It wasn't until Arthur visited with his wife and son—newly obese and disengaged with the world—for what turned out to be the last time, that he began to realize the extent of the separation's damage. He had been worried about the effect the separation was having on his son, but he didn't expect his son to take on a destructive habit like overeating to cope.

Moments after he parted with his wife and son, Arthur fell deep into depression. Arthur had been clean for 10 years, but, before he knew it, he was attempting to buy heroin to self-medicate his depression, being arrested for attempting to buy illegal narcotics, and being escorted to San Quentin.

For the next 6 years, Arthur's life was incredibly unstable. He was in and out of prison. He was apart from his son. And, he lost his savings when his wife transferred the money in their joint account to her personal account. When the time came for his release, he found himself penniless and homeless with no family ties.

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Arthur and art...

PLANNING & ZONING

368 Lombard/20-24A Julius (proposed subdivision of an existing lot). This is a proposal to subdivide an existing lot (containing 5 units) into 2 lots (resulting in 3 units on a new Lombard lot and 2 units on a new Julius lot). Because neither of the proposed new lots would meet the minimum requirements of the Planning Code, the

proposed subdivision requires the owner to first obtain 4 Variances (exceptions) from Planning Code requirements for minimum lot width, lot area, rear yard depth and usable open space. THD is requesting that an environmental review of the proposal be completed before the Variances are granted.



PARKS & TREES REPORT

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT JOE DIMAGGIO PLAYGROUND?

By Julie Christensen

With so much going on around Joe DiMaggio Playground – and so much that NEEDS to happen there - folks are always asking for news. Here's an update:

The May Fun Fair and Flea Market grossed over \$8,000 on expenses of about \$1,600, earning over \$6,000 towards the new picnic tables and benches, planters and trash receptacles for the renovated bocce court area. Thanks hugely to all who contributed and to those who attended.

TRIANGLE: We thought politics was slow but then we ran into the legal phase of the fight for the triangle's future, which can only be described as glacial. Hearings on the fate of the triangle finally began in May, after the developer-requested delay last autumn. The developers' suit against the City – which argues that the eminent domain proceedings that would convert the old parking lot to green space were not properly conducted – has been bundled with the hearings set to determine how much money the developers should be paid for the land. But the developers have the right to an immediate appeal of the right-to-take ruling if they don't like the outcome, so we may not know the triangle's fate until

late this year.

LIBRARY: State proposition 81 on the recent ballot failed by a narrow margin. The loss was a big blow to hopes for a new, better, safer North Beach Library. We're not alone: City Librarian Luis Herrera is now faced with shortfalls for worthy library projects all over San Francisco. Hope glimmers in that the non-profit Friends of the San Francisco Public Library has promised to continue to work with us to make a new North Beach branch a reality. Once the wound licking that followed the bond's failure is over, all parties have promised to regroup and try to think of alternative funding sources.

POOL: I didn't know until this year that every pool in San Francisco closes one month of each year. RecPark claims it is maintenance downtime but, with the department's budget so badly ravaged for consecutive years, cost savings have to factor in. RecPark staff took the opportunity of the spring shutdown at the North Beach Pool to look into some repairs and fine tuning they had not been able to get to since the pool reopened a year ago. The repairs – reinstallation of the inset steps in the pool walls - were minor and were successfully completed. The department is still analyzing problems with the south windows. The



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PARKS & TREES

setbacks caused by the withdrawal of the original contractor and the difficulties inherent in retrofitting an old structure linger as a burden to the project. But the new pool continues to receive rave reviews and gains new fans each week. Come on (back) in. The water's fine!

BOCCE COURTS: The new courts are IN! We can't wait for the Italy-inspired garden to fill in, but the courts are ready for fun. Hours for the new courts are being debated. Naturally, we'd like to see them open as much as possible. Currently, they are open officially only when the Rec. Director is present (Monday thru Friday,) and RecPark's permit dept. doesn't seem ready to take reservations or schedule leagues. We encourage folks to talk with Marlene down at the clubhouse if you would like to schedule special events at the courts. The more interest we

can show, the more likely an adult-friendly opening policy will have to be forged.

PLAYGROUND: With so many issues up in the air, the poor playground waits its turn. We're holding on to our hopes for new fencing, better and more attractive surfacing, and more greenery. Through Tom Sawyer-inspired painting parties and clean up days, neighbors try to make the most of what we have in the meantime.

And volunteers continue their successful efforts – like the Fair and Flea Market and the movie nights – to bring new and more people into the circle of those aware of what's available at the playground and willing to help improve this unpolished gem in the heart of our neighborhood. If you have suggestions or questions, especially if you want to know how to contribute or volunteer, contact Julie Christensen at Julie@surfacework.com. See you at the playground!



Supervisor Peskin helps inaugurate the new Bocci Ball court at Dimaggio Playground.

NORTH BEACH ESPRESSO: A STORY

By Kathleen Cannon

No respectable North Beach establishment would consider life without an espresso machine. Just ask around. From Cafes Trieste, Divine, Roma, Greco, Puccini, and Mario's, to North Beach Restaurant, Moose's, Enrico's, and Tosca. All of North Beach invests in the commercial espresso machine...It is the heart of the business.

Making an espresso used to be a production. Steam poured out from the spouts. Heaven help you if it ran dry. After loading, a large handle was pulled delivering a light, frothy brown liquid into a tiny cup. In today's faster, more electronic world, buttons are pushed, also delivering a decent cuppa. But there still exists in North Beach the legendary machines that eloquently speak of a century of espresso evolution. Adorned with ornaments, huge and ungainly but beautiful, this is their story, and also the tale of their more efficient replacements.



Café Trieste

Though **Thomas Cara**, the godfather of North Beach espresso, has passed on, his son, Christopher Cara, now runs the business assisted by Carlotta his well-mannered Dalmatian out of a Barbary Coast building (a former cathouse complete with sign "Jesopstairs") on Pacific Avenue. The location is a virtual museum, displaying the oldest espresso maker in N.Beach, #193 La Pavoni from Milano...which proudly sits next to another 3 foot (unnamed) copper beauty used in Christopher's family home in the 1950s. "Unnamed" has a twin in the window of Francis Ford Coppola's Columbus Avenue cafe.

Thomas Cara, Ltd. also houses "the secret recipe" for espresso which Christopher's dad obtained from "some Neapolitan during W.W.II." And it remains a secret.

At **Café Trieste**, the enclave, where Coppola and others have retreated to write, Ida deftly plays two espresso machines—the modern, fully automatic Magister and, a La San Marco, a semi automatic "from the 1950's, or later." She pushes the buttons on one, pulls handles on the other. With so many journal writers seeking caffeine-filled inspiration there is little down time.

Tosca. Allegedly, the oldest functioning



Christopher Cara at Thomas Cara, Ltd.

Y OF CONTINUITY AND CHANGE



Café Zoetrope

espresso machine resides at the Tosca. Jammed nightly and purportedly a stop for the Mayor's party posse, the watering hole features, at the end of the bar, an Emelio from 1919 (the same year as the bar



Tosca's

was opened). The machine still provides steam to warm the popular Irish coffees. At the window end of the bar, a 1927 Victoria Arduini regally holds court.

At Coppala's **Café Zoetrope**, a unique espresso maker discovery: a Bosco from Naples given to Francis by Dr. Illy (as in Illy Coffee) 12 years ago when Coppala started the restaurant. Cups also were designed by Dr. Illy. And this espresso machine sports two real handles—no buttons, electric or otherwise. As a handle is pulled, steam pours from the machine. Gracing the window is the historic Argentinean canister (twin to Thom. Cara's) from the Zoetrope Studio days, a retired Godfather.

Café Divine. Although he doesn't look it, David Wright has owned espresso machines for over 25 years. After several La San Marcos and Rancillios, he has settled on Elektra. It is top of the line—a



Piazza Pellegrini still uses the Faema..

NORTH BEACH ESPRESSO

Belle Époque, around \$15,000 of machine retail. It will not go 0 to 60 in less than 8 seconds, but it has become the restaurant industry standard because it integrates the popular retro 1960's facade (a shiny ornate canister with Eagle atop)—with electrical components and reliability. It is a piece of art, a beautiful instrument and David is a master.

David recalls the steam/handle pulling days, and the repair and disabled machines that “ran dry and burned themselves up or constantly broke down.” He points out the 5 electrical “buttons.” He merely pushes one or two. No handle. Repair is occasionally necessary, but doesn't seem to be an impending threat.

At **Piazza Pellegrini**, explains owner Dario, the Faema, an older, large ornate canister with an eagle on top, wings spread, also is a “manual” machine.

And the eagle's wings spread over \$7500 worth of grand machine. No electric universal emblems. But no handles either. Instead there are two prominent buttons which when depressed cause an audible mechanical sound. The sound, the look, the taste are all wonderfully real.

A quick zig zag down Stockton to Columbus. Most if not all of the espresso machines are work-horses, modern looking chrome boxes with electrical elements—Elektras and a few other brands.

Is there no where in North Beach where espresso making is still a production? In a word, No.” But if you need drama you can always stop by Café Puccini, drop a few coins in the juke box—which is considerably harder to operate than the sleek Electra behind the counter—listen to a Tosca aria and smell the coffee!



David Wright at Café Divine.

NORTH BEACH PLACE: A PRETTY FACE AND MUCH MORE

By Art Peterson

“**S**ure it gets noisy, but that’s real life,” says Vietnamese immigrant Tan Chow of his experience at North Beach Place, the affordable housing development that in 2004 replaced the dilapidated and crime ridden public housing centered at the corner of Bay and Taylor.

Over a year ago, Chow moved to North Beach from the nearby North Point Apartments with his wife and now 2 ½ year old daughter. At the apartments he remembers the usually empty long dark corridors where there seemed to be no community and no life for families.

All that has now changed. Says Chow, “From my balcony at North Beach Place I can look out and see my neighbors in the courtyards and play areas. My daughter is playing with African American children and kids from Mexico and El Salvador.”

Indeed there are children at North Beach Place, almost 400 kids under 18. As Tim Daniels, Executive Director of the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center (Tel-Hi) that works with North Beach Place residents points out, “That’s more than a lot of schools in San Francisco.”

All 341 units at North Beach Place are dedicated to low and moderate income housing. As with similar properties which serve primarily low income populations, many—in this case 209— households

are headed by single moms. 48 apartments have been set aside for seniors 55 or older who have their own building. And 66 units are occupied by residents with mobility impairment or other disabilities. Most of the adults who live at North Beach Place work.

Where did North Beach Place come from? The answer is far too complicated for this brief piece. But here’s the short answer. Driven initially by federal Hope VI funding to provide low income housing, the project is a joint venture of BRIDGE Housing, EM Johnson Interest, and The John Stewart Company. (For many years Stewart had his office across the street from the old project and fanaticized about the positive and imaginative uses for this space.) The San Francisco Housing Authority provides a long term ground lease for the project.

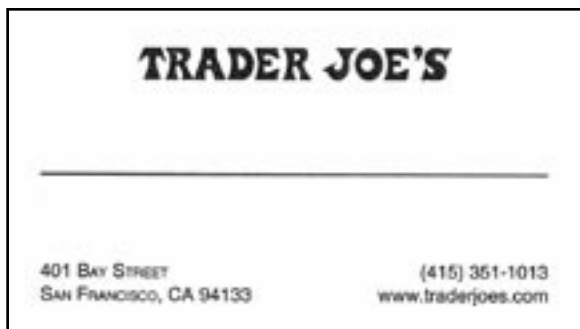
The current facility is a mix of public housing units, (84 families who resided in the demolished facility have returned), subsidized Section 8 housing, and Tax Credit apartments affordable to families earning no more than 50% of the Bay Area median income.

In all there are currently 1,018 residents at the fully- occupied facility living in the 341 apartments. The demolished public housing had only 229 units. That makes North Beach Place something of a rarity as affordable housing construction is likely to create a facility with fewer units than were provided in the original complex.

That’s only one of the ingredients that makes North Beach Place special. Here are some others:

- There’s the access from units to the well- maintained inner courtyard with its carefully tended lawns and gardens and safety-enhanced children’s play structures.
- There’s the significant retail space provided by the project. Chief among these is Trader Joe’s whose managers have forged a close relationship

continued on page 32



THE ALFA NOSE

Again this month, Kathleen Cannon and her amused Alfa Romeo Spider nose about the neighbourhood receiving good news.



High Octane on the Broadway Corridor

Careful What you Wish For: We invited Central Station to ticket late night clubbers, underage and under the influence. So the men in blue threw a net over N. Beach on Memorial Weekend. What did they catch? Per Capt. Dudley, 300 vehicles were stopped; 76 were detained; 5 Sobriety Tests given; 1 DUI; 2 narcotics arrests, 2 warrant arrests, 8 suspended licenses, and 49 citations issued (vs. a typical 40 citation weekend). Search and seizures still reveal supply and demand strong for the drug of preference along the Broadway/Columbus corridors-- methamphetamine. It fairly "flies out of stopped vehicles"... (except Spiders). But the Young & Restless are still cruising Broadway despite SFPD posting impressive numbers of citations.

Books on Broadway? Expensive Love Meets Free Verse.

The Beat Museum is moving to the Broadway site of Black Oak Bookstore just down from Enrico's ... Jack Kerouac and Neal Cassady sandwiched in between "girlie joints." Cliff Notes for *On the Road* are available. But if you are nostalgic for the real story, pick up Dick Boyd's new read at City Lights re Broadway days and nights in the era of early Topless.

A Moving Event—April 4th, 2006.

Earthquake respect ran high at St. Francis of Assisi Shrine. Audrey Tomaselli recited an eloquent recollection of the horrifying day by Gertrude Stein, a then budding SF authoress. (Audrey was shocked that Ms. Stein's name was withheld from reading because "it took place in a church"—can you say Gay Pride?) In this moving recitation organized by Stephen Cordoba of St. Francis and the THD Oral

History Program, each member in the audience came forward and lit a candle. Also, hope you caught Audrey's exhibition of Telegraph Hill Quake photographs which moved from City Hall to Columbus and Pacific... but not on their own.

Chocolate or Mocha Moose? You Vote.

Agree to Disagree. May 25th. The evening began with an invitation to see and hear Ms. Christine Pelosi (Nancy's daughter) at Moose's Restaurant. Gerry Crowley sat the door. Tony Gantner and Ed Moose introduced Ms. Pelosi. The audience mostly liked what they heard about strategies Demos needed to apply in order to win...until Lawrence Ferlinghetti asked a question bigger than THD boundaries—how the Party stood on intervention in the Middle East? He *is* a poet. Thus began a heated discussion. They all agreed "all candidates must stay in touch with the 'grass roots' to which end voting is a must." (Not exactly a to-the-barricades manifesto.) Any Moose's meeting is always tasty...great Hor d'oeuvres, Ed. Afterward, Ed Moose said nicely but emphatically, "I am not retiring". But he has sold his namesake restaurant to Gary Hirano and Philip Wong. Ed will remain an "advisor for 1 year". What will Ed and Mary Etta do next?

Mal Sharpe, Worms Gallery & Coit Tower

A typical Saturday afternoon walking from Café Divine. Pass Savoy and hear Mal Sharpe. (Actually Mal plays all over N.Beach with various musicians.) Like a magnet, people are drawn in. Further down Grant Avenue, Kevin Brown sits alone in The Worms Gallery. Kevin is a retired airline pilot

THE ALFA NOSE

He uses his retirement to live his dream: paint in a gallery in North Beach. People come by and watch, buy canvases or prints. He also subleases the gallery to other artists and authors who hold openings and readings. On any given weekend, something different can be happening at Worms.

May Day at Worms

A birthday party for Coit Tower Preservationist leader, Stephen Worsley. A red affair... everyone wore red... as much red as you could find. (The red Spider wouldn't fit in the door, but the concept was appreciated.) The mission statement of Stephen's group to install a non-profit Depression-era heritage site and cultural center at Coit Tower. Simple mission.... complicated, costly process.

Stephen reports all the applications have been filed and the \$10,000 in processing fees is being raised. Stephen is concerned because the Mayor said he definitely wants to give The Coit Preservationists an audience, but, so far nothing.

The World Cup...

Don't you love the sound? The whole world stops to watch soccer. Driving by Café Roma, I heard the yell... jumped out and told my sister to park. Italy vs. Ghana. Ghana was hot, but The Holy Roman Empire held its own. These guys make sweat look sooo sexy. Saturday morning June 17th, the N.B. Fair was empty while soccer and High Definition TV ruled. The bottom floor of the Italian Athletic Club opened to the public and was packed 500 strong. Café Roma—standing room only. O'Reily's—jammed. Gino & Carlo's—well, you can just bet! Steps of Rome—fans standing on steps and chairs peering inside. Actually, outside Andrew Jaeger's gave a great view of the bar TV.

The 52nd North Beach Fair June 17-18

The Cheese Stands Alone... and This Brew's

for You. Does anyone recall the Neil Young song "Won't sing for Pepsi...won't sing for Bud...this note's for you"? This N.B. Fair sang for Precious Cheese --5300 lbs (\$24,000) was donated to the SF Foodbank. Beer and wine were relegated to the Beer/Wine Garden on Grant and Green (Mayor Newsom's "compromise"). Saturday at 7pm, when the booze dried up, that was the spot where officers were sent to deal with "potential violence and make arrests" (Capt. Dudley).

Organized by the North Beach Chamber of Commerce, the festival according NBCC Director Marsha Garland cost "a quarter of a million dollars". Marsha quotes staggering figures—\$6k for insurance for 2 days; an extra \$10k for police (another beer wine garden); more money for private security and clean up. Next... City decibel studies. It is Big Business. What happened to the old, quaint street fair along Grant Avenue of long ago? "That was dirty, too," per Marsha. What do the neighborhood and merchants get out of it? Juan of Savoy Tivoli wistfully commented the booths would face his establishment next year. This is very important. Jim Schein confirms that on years when the booths face away from his store, no business, but "the creative artists need to be supported and anything that brings people to the neighborhood is good."

Question: How can the NB Fair be uniquely North Beach? Of and by North Beach? vs. another weekend drinking location? Ahhh, the liquor debate -- As one who was lucky enough to have attended some of the great parties of the last millennium (back stage at The Fillmore, etc.) -- every generation is entitled to party. But, why is a street faire in Paris quainter, cleaner? Or Rome? Guess we need another 2 millennium to work it out. Every Monday, the streets of NB are like flypaper. Try to play soccer on that. Maybe the answer is marble streets.

Bless you, My Poodle.

Father Robert had his hands full from 2-3 pm Sunday, June 20th as cats, dogs, and cuddly beasts

THE ALFA NOSE

arrived to be blessed. Penny the Poodle (see photo) left happier. This event will be repeated again on St. Francis Day in October, so borrow a pet and join in! Deacon Chuck reports the priests also bless residences and autos...hint, hint.

Pena Pacha Mama's (Bolivian restaurant/cabaret on Stockton) hosted another annual B-day party for bandleader Freddy's mom. The site is the former



Father Robert had his hands full from 2-3 pm Sunday, June 20th as cats, dogs, and cuddly beasts arrived to be blessed.

Amilio's, where Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio held their wedding feast in 1954. The dance floor is small but hopping, and jammed Wednesday nights. International music with long riffs.

The Neighborhood's Diva?

In past years, The Neighborhood had star status (no bad angles), but currently our reputation is "too expensive"—so mid June Stefanie Coyote, head of the Film Commission and & Mayor G went knocking at Hollywood studio doors --to advertise the recently passed incentive to bring filming back to SF. Remember the Streets of SF studio at the foot of Telegraph Hill? Sound stages now cost \$100m, and are a stumbling block. The last NB shoot was Fruit of the Loom in April...when is Fruit II? (The Film Commission meets the last Monday, 1p.m., City Hall, #416. Alfa's request: blocks of garage parking during shoots.)

See you again when Pumpkins line the Filbert Steps.... and all Goblins are under 3 feet tall. Join the parade for Columbus Day... and visually feast on the Ferraris—mere Alfa Spin-offs—on Washington Square. And in your spare time, get down to the Ferry Building on Thursday evenings: a Gypsy Jazz Ensemble, plenty of food samples and treats ranging from organic greens to artsy chocolate. Then stand back and take in that crazy Harvest Moon. ✂

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NORTH BEACH CITIZEN: ARTHUR CHAGALL *continued from page 15*

It took 6 years for this downward spiral to end, but, when Arthur was reassigned to the psych ward, it did. In the psych ward, Arthur finally received the attention he needed to begin to deal with his depression and post-traumatic stress. While in the psych ward, three life changing developments happened: first, Arthur began therapy. Second, Arthur, with the help of North Beach Citizens (with whom he had started a relationship with in 2002), applied for and received Social Security Income. Third, Arthur taught himself how to draw and paint.

The therapy gave Arthur the opportunity to talk about his depression and life in a supportive, constructive setting. The SSI gave him the opportunity to find housing upon release. The introduction of art into Arthur's life gave him an outlet to express himself and something positive to focus on. And, like that, prison's revolving door became a hinged

door and Arthur opened San Quentin's exit with the hope of closing it once and for all.

Upon returning to North Beach, Arthur had temporary housing at the Next Door Shelter while the NBC staff supported him through the more involved process of finding a home. And, he had a place in North Beach Citizens that provided a phone and the internet to begin reconnecting with his family and friends, daily meals, a peer-to-peer support network, and active advocates.

Currently, Arthur Chagall is living the life of an Oceanview resident/art school student/ North Beach Citizens's volunteer attempting to clear his record in order to one day be reunited with his son, Joshua.

North Beach Citizens, changing the face of North Beach one Citizen at a time.

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GASTRONOMIC TRANQUILITY COMES TO BROADWAY

By Carol Peterson

COI, 353 Broadway, 393-9000 ☆☆☆☆

As Telegraph Hill/North Beach people, we are used to the casual and raucous dining environments that characterize favorite eateries as diverse as Tommaso's and Moose's. It comes as something of a surprise, then, that an elegant and upscale-- if unpretentious-- restaurant has slipped in under our noses. The lower Broadway establishment is named COI, French for tranquil. The chef and owner, Daniel Patterson comes to this new venture after the much lamented demise of his former restaurant, Elizabeth-David, a personal favorite of mine.

COI, lives up to its name from the moment you walk through the door. The walls are painted milk chocolate and papered with earthy grass cloth, almost emitting an aroma of its own. The subtle art work, flowers, upholstered chairs, dropped faux ceiling of hand-made paper all flow together exquisitely.

The menu is prefixed, with a \$75 Dinner and a \$105 Tasting Choice. If you think the meal pricey, consider the cost of a good seat at a major theatre for three hours of entertainment. On both our visits to COI, the presentation and meal took three hours, and the experience was as dramatic as a fine play.

The courses come quickly; you are never bored. I wondered about the 18% gratuity, shared by the entire wait staff, but the friendly crew seamlessly glided from table to table, taking orders, explaining the menu, replacing silver and tending to every detail it takes to make a great meal ebb and flow.

The nine course Tasting Menu at first seemed intimidating, but the portions are very small, focusing on original combinations of foods, oils, herbs and other ingredients. The California Osetra Caviar portion was no bigger than two fifty-cent pieces but

the flavor was a million dollars. Imagine sautéed bone marrow, topped with a dollop of caviar and beet gelee. I looked around to see if anyone was looking, as I wanted to run my finger across the plate for the last taste of beet. Unbelievable! Then the Sea Scallop Sashimi arrived, with minutely shaved avocado, radishes, and baby nasturtiums topping it. The scallop melted on my tongue and when I started to chew, a tiny piece of sea salt exploded in my mouth. Sitting back, I let the flavors meld before I took another bite. The first spoonful of the Chilled English Pea Soup, which was poured around a cluster of raw, fresh peas with ricotta yogurt, led me to close my eyes in sensual appreciation. The fresh mint in the puree transported me back to my childhood in my mother's garden. Each of the following dishes was a joy to look at and more of a pleasure to eat.

The deserts are seasonal, with a few favorites left on the menu. There is a great variety for everyone's taste from creations of fresh fruit, with sweet and tart flavors, to creamy chocolate that tastes like velvet on your tongue. On my first visit to COI, I sampled the lemon, three layered, pie in a tall tubular shape. It was beyond outstanding. I felt like crying when it wasn't offered on the second visit.

For those disinclined to rob Fort Knox or take out a second mortgage on their home, there is another way to visit. COI. One can enjoy the lounge menu with out confronting the dining room prices. I have yet to have this experience, but some say the food is even better.

Chefs of San Francisco, stand at attention. Daniel Patterson has a winner here, and in my opinion, it is the best restaurant in San Francisco. And it is right here in our neighborhood!



MOVIE NIGHT

By Jason Black

It's true. Everyone loves taking in a movie on Saturday night. So does Paul Scott. But, as creator and event organizer for the City's Film Night in the Park, his favorite cinematic evening includes the moon and the stars alongside a great flick.

Scott originally got the idea for THD to start a Film Night in the Park in Washington Square a few years back, after attending an outdoor screening in Marin. Taking the lead as then President of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers, he lined up the permits, equipment, and sponsors, and THD was ready to go. Then the San Francisco Neighborhood Theater Foundation (SFNTF) jumped in for support and helped to take the idea city-wide.

Premiering in 2003, the very first Film in the Park—*Vertigo*—opened free to rave reviews. In the first years, Film Night in the Park exclusively featured films shot in San Francisco. Now, Film Night has broadened its oeuvre to include all kinds of movies for its diverse audience: children, dog lovers,

and serious film buffs, as well those who just want to enjoy a quality flick.

"Mrs. Doubtfire," starring local celebrity Robin Williams, was a recent hit, since it was shot here on location. Each time a new establishing shot of the city came up (like when Mrs. Doubtfire is waiting for the bus and the Fulton and 22nd pulls up), the entire crowd let out a huge cheer. YEAH!

Now in its third season, the 2006 schedule features films for free in parks all over the City: Union Square, Washington Square Park, and even Dolores Park. On big nights, their steady 800–person crowd can swell to thousands. Yet, Film Night in the Park truly has something for every movie fan: from the Academy Award winning "The Bicycle Thief" to San Francisco suspense classics like Hitchcock's "The Birds" to modern blockbusters like Spielberg's "Raiders of the Lost Ark." Plus, there are even full concessions, including popcorn provided by SFNTF.

So come on down, pull up a chair, and stargaze by moonlight. ✕

JULIUS CASTLE

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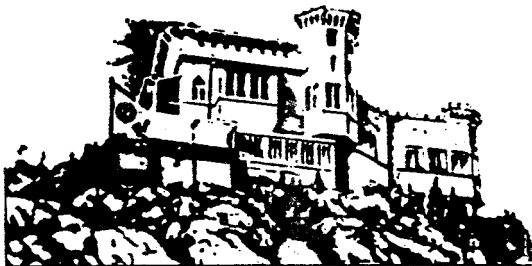
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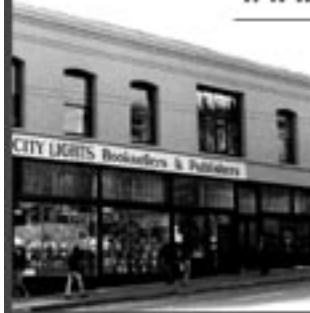
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LOOKING FOR TREE BASINS

By Joe Butler

The Parks and Trees Committee has launched a tree basin census and replanting for Telegraph Hill. Building on discussion about how to increase the number of trees on the Hill, committee member Carolyn Blair suggested that we tackle those empty tree basins where for lack of water, care, or perhaps from poor nursery stock, the tree in the sidewalk basin did not survive. We are looking for volunteers to help us walk the Hill and find empty basins, and to note the address of the property. We suppose that we will find some 40–50 basins in need of replacement trees and will then write letters to the homeowners about refilling the basin. We hope to work with Friends of the Urban Forest, and the Department of Public Works in identifying and replacing the trees.

We will apply for a grant from the Mayor's Office. (Mayor Newsom has committed to planting 5,000 trees this year). And we will match the grant with funds from the Jack Early Bequest, earmarked for tree planting. If you see an empty basin, or live next door to one, call us to let us know where, even if you cannot volunteer to do more. If you simply want a tree on the sidewalk in front of your home, call us for that, too. Friends of the Urban Forest has an illustrated list of trees suitable for sidewalk locations. Call Joe Butler, 776 9416 to volunteer or report the empty basin on your block. ✕



This poster was designed by local artist/illustrator John Mattos for the THD-sponsored Washington Square showing of *The Maltese Falcon*.. John currently has a piece in the New York Society of Illustrators show and has over 100 awards from various graphic organizations & magazines. johnmattos.com

For more information on Film Night in the Park, please visit www.sfnff.org.

The Remaining 2006 Film Night in the Park Schedule includes:

- Saturday, 7/29, RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK @ Dolores Park, 8 PM
- Saturday, 8/19, BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S @ Union Square, 8:00 PM
- Saturday, 8/26, BEST IN SHOW @ Dolores Park, 8 PM (NEW DATE)
- Saturday, 9/9, THE BIRDS @ Union Square, 8:00 PM
- Saturday, 9/23, THE BICYCLE THIEF @ Washington Sq. Park, 8 PM, Presented with Telegraph Hill Dwellers
- Saturday, 10/7, YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN @ Dolores Park, 8:00 PM

Sean O'Donnell

"Anything can be fixed
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NORTH BEACH PLACE *continued from page 21*

with the staff at North Beach Place. A tour company also has offices at the location, and Edible Arrangements, a retail space providing consumable displays that look like flower bouquets but taste better, will be moving in. Also an experienced retailer has signed a lease and will locate at the site of the now closed coffee shop, JR Muggs,

- Another retail place that will soon become available will be located in area originally set aside for what the planners of the facility called “an incubator space.” The idea was that residents with entrepreneurial ideas would use this space as a location to try out their plans. However, until a feasible business plan is presented, The Resident Association has asked John Stewart Company to rent out the space, and use the proceeds for programs for those who live there.
- There are the spaces set aside for residents to use: a community room where the tenant association meets, a teen center, stocked with computers and games, where tutoring is offered, art classes meet and dance groups practice. Girls and boys youth empowerment groups use the facility for meetings. Nearby Tel-Hi, which has been intimately involved with the project since its inception, sets aside spots in programs at its center for seniors, Kindergarten-5th graders, and preschoolers from North Beach Place.

While these programs are a good idea in themselves, they are particularly necessary as a partial antidote to

the social problems that have often fed the stereotype of public housing. The managers are doing all they can to create a safe environment for the residents and the neighborhood, starting with the open design of the facility which creates an “eyes on the street” environment. Inside the facility 37 video cameras are active 24 hours, and recently a video camera has been installed at the corner of Francisco and Mason.



North Beach Place, before and after.



PHOTO BY BOB CANFIELD

NORTH BEACH PLACE *continued from page 32*

Security guards patrol the facility.

But things are not perfect. There have been incidents. "This place can only be as good as the residents who live here," says Linda Tilton who directs the facility for the John Stewart Company. Because of rights afforded to former tenants, not every occupant has had to undergo the complicated screening process required of other residents.

Captain James Dudley of Central Station confirms that crime in the area has increased, but he does not find this particularly surprising. "All of sudden 1000 people are living in a two square block where a couple of years ago there were none." But the cops do get more calls: auto jackings, domestic violence, robberies. In one serious incident a resident and her children assaulted some tourists leaving Trader Joes.

According to Dudley, when the police trace a miscreant to a North Beach Place address, they inform the management who may start eviction proceedings. The family involved in the Trader Joe incident has, in fact, been evicted. "We are able to take action much more quickly than the Housing Authority ever could," says Tilton.

Dudley adds, that a number of criminal incidents in the area of the facility do not involve current residents. "We caught three guys fleeing the scene after a robbery. It turns out they lived not at North

Beach Place but in the East Bay. Prior residents now living in places like Hayes Valley come around and get into trouble."

Whatever, glitches may arise in making North Beach Place the special urban space it can be, the people at The John Stewart Company and The Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center are there to face them head on. Tim Daniels wants to get the whole neighborhood involved. "We are working to find ways to get emails out to the Hill Dwellers and other neighborhood groups. We know we need the engagement of the community."

In fact, the Telegraph Hill Dwellers have been involved with North Beach Place from the beginning. Says Gerry Crowley, who was president of the Hill Dwellers during much of the time the facility was under development, "Our Planning and Zoning Committee met with the developers many, many times over at least a 2-year period, providing expertise and suggestions. This low income housing project had been home to hundreds of residents during the past half century and social justice dictated that the new project serve the same needy people. A blight on the neighborhood was to become a model for other housing projects. For me, representing THD at the 2004 dedication of North Beach Place was a very proud moment."



Fog Hill Market

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THD BOARD MOTIONS

FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH, APRIL 2006

MARCH:

MOTION: To donate to the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center \$1000.

The Motion passed.

MOTION: That THD endorse Paul Scott's agreement with the San Francisco Neighborhood Theater Foundation as written to co-sponsor Movie Nights in Washington Square Park.

The Motion passed.


WATERFRONT BRIEFS

by Vedica Puri and Nancy Shanahan

1620 Montgomery St. (Del Monte Milling Company Bldg). As reported in the last issue, there is a building permit application to demolish this 1907 building and replace it with a 9-story condominium complex. The building was included on the Landmarks Board 2006 work plan for potential designation as a landmark. In a victory for the neighborhood, the Landmarks Board rejected as inadequate the developer's report endeavoring to prove that the building was not historic. Fundraising efforts are now underway to pay for the necessary research for designation of the building as a landmark. Although the application to demolish the building remains on file, the owner appears to be attempting to secure tenants under 10-year leases.

Ferry Service to Alcatraz. Hornblower Yachts was recently awarded a 10-year contract by the National Park Service (NPS) to take over the busy Alcatraz Ferry Service beginning this fall. As currently proposed, Hornblower wants to move the Alcatraz Ferry Service away from its longtime location at Fisherman's Wharf and create a new Alcatraz Ferry Headquarters between Piers 31 and 33 on the Embarcadero near Bay Street directly adjacent to the site of the potential Shoreline/Farallon Piers 27-31 Project (formerly the Mills Project). The Alcatraz Ferry Service carries 1.3 million people every year to Alcatraz and back, and many days in the summer as many as 8,000 to 10,000 people attempt to buy tickets

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daily. Concerns about this move include massive traffic congestion, lack of parking, new tour bus and taxi drop-offs along the Embarcadero, blockage of bicycle lanes and pedestrians, and the lack of facilities at that site for the 1.3 million new visitors. At a Port Commission meeting on June 13th, Hornblower presented plans for the construction of a massive new facility between Piers 31 and 33. THD has expressed its concern that Hornblower's proposal to move the Alcatraz Ferry Headquarters to this location may have serious impacts on the neighborhood, and THD is insisting that a full environmental evaluation of the project's potential impacts be accomplished. In a presentation to THD's Planning & Zoning Committee in July, Hornblower's CEO reiterated that they do not intend to conduct any kind of environmental analysis ahead of taking over the contract on September 25, 2006.

Northern Waterfront National Register Historic District. It's official! The National Park Service has finally approved the listing of the Port's bulkheads and piers along the northern waterfront from Pier 45 to Pier 48 as the newest historic district to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. THD and the Port are working together to co-sponsor an event celebrating this approval.



THD CALENDAR

Second Saturday stroll and garden work parties at Pioneer Park: May 11, April 8 and May 13. For more information call 552-7774.

SCHEDULES OF COMMITTEE

MEETINGS

PLANNING & ZONING: First Thursdays. Call for time and location. 986-7070, 563-3494, 391-5652.

Mon. August 14th

Reception & Speaker at the Chinese Historical Society* 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Thurs., Sept. 7th

Neighborhood Night at the Symphony*

* Information will be sent out on these events.

TENTATIVE EVENTS

September – THD Picnic at Coit Tower

October – General Membership Dinner at the South End Rowing Club

November – Event at San Francisco Art Institute on Chestnut

December – Annual Holiday Party

Check the THD website (www.thd.org) for a complete calendar or contact Pat Swan, Social Chair for additional details/confirmation of events.

For more information, log on to <http://www.thd.org>

For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

THD Welcomes New Members March to May 2006

Anita Chawla, L. Maria Olmos, Richard C. Boyd, Scott Elliott, Lisa Stanton & Nicholas Baker, Katherine Fines & Henry Heines, Vince & Jamie Vigil, Russian Hill Neighbors, Robert Mattei

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

Sign Up or Sign a Friend Up as a member of Telegraph Hill Dwellers. Complete and mail to THD, PO Box 330159, SF, CA 94133

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